

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (New) A network bridge comprising:

at least one arrangement for configuration and control of the network bridge; and

at least one interface for providing access to at least some functional blocks of the network bridge for polling and evaluation of at least one of useful data, operating data, and parameters, and for manipulation of the at least one of useful data, operating data, and parameters, and of the functional blocks, as a function of the evaluation.

9. (New) The network bridge according to claim 8, wherein the network bridge is for coupling serial IEEE 1394 buses.

10. (New) The network bridge according to claim 8, wherein the at least one arrangement includes a software layer within a network bridge architecture.

11. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein, in addition to the functional blocks of the network bridge according to IEEE 1394, routing maps and a routing unit are provided for each connectable bus, information about a topology and node addresses in one of respective connectable buses and networks being provided in the routing maps, and data being exchanged via the routing unit between one of a link and transaction layer according to IEEE 1394.1 and a network bridge temporary memory.

12. (New) The network bridge according to claim 8, wherein a configuration of resources, including at least one of memory capacity and line capacity, is a function of varying operating parameters.

13. (New) The network bridge according to claim 12, wherein an allocation of memory regions, including a temporary memory for data to be transported via the

network bridge, is a function of a statistical evaluation of a data volume for different data types including at least one of asynchronous and isochronous data.

14. (New) The network bridge according to claim 13, wherein, in the event of at least one of (a) a defect in one of a connected bus and network and (b) an attack by an unauthorized person, at least one of (c) a transfer of data is haltable and (d) one of a relevant bus and a connected device is deactivatable.

15. (New) The network bridge according to claim 10, further comprising, situated above the software layer for configuration and control, at least one further software layer via which one of a network operator and a user can control functions of the network bridge.